



STATE OF CONNECTICUT

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Post-Construction Report

Date: May 22, 2014

Re: **DOCKET NO. 413** - Cellco Partnership d/b/a Verizon Wireless application for a Certificate of Environmental Compatibility and Public Need for the construction, maintenance and operation of a telecommunications facility located at 723 Leetes Island Road, Branford, Connecticut.

In this docket, Verizon proposed building a telecommunications tower disguised as a 109-foot tall, rustic-style water tank, with antenna placements at the 100-foot, 90-foot, and 80-foot levels inside the water tank. The water tank stealth tower was to be located within a 57-foot by 57-foot compound on a 19-acre property owned by James Medlyn, who uses it for agricultural purposes. AT&T, T-Mobile, and the Town of Branford were parties in this proceeding. Verizon was to be at the 90-foot level, AT&T at the 100-foot level, and T-Mobile at the 80-foot level. The Council approved the proposed facility on July 28, 2011. The Development and Management Plan was approved on March 29, 2012.

I visited this site on May 21, 2014. At the time of my visit, all site construction work appeared to be completed. The water tank tower was erected. The compound was well graveled and enclosed by an eight-foot chain link fence. All utilities were hooked up. There were six meter placements on the compound's utility board with two meters in place; one for Verizon and one for AT&T. As proposed in the docket proceeding, the equipment shelters for Verizon and AT&T had been given an architectural treatment. Verizon's backup generator was located inside its shelter. AT&T's generator was located outside, next to its equipment shelter.

This facility is located on a small hillock. The access road was well graveled and riprap had been placed along the edges of the road and at the edge of the hillock where grading had been done. There were no signs of erosion at the time of my visit. A paved apron had been installed where the access road meets Leetes Island Road (State Route 146).

Visibility of this tower is minimal. Approaching from the north on Leetes Island Road, there are some views of the tower across a tidal marsh area. But the distance to the tower from these locations makes the tower's presence relatively innocuous. Many motorists probably miss seeing the tower at these vantage points. As one gets closer to the tower on Leetes Island Road, it disappears behind mature deciduous trees that grow thickly along the road. The tower is very prominently visible for motorists traveling northbound on Leetes Island Road as they emerge from the railroad underpass a short distance to the southeast of the tower. This visibility, however, quickly disappears as the tower gets lost behind trees as one approaches it. The tower is also visible from across more tidal marsh lands for a short distance along Old Quarry Road. This road, however, sees very little traffic. From what I could discern, I don't think any of the residences in this area would have views of the tower.

Conditions observed at the site at the time of my visit conformed to the approved D&M plans. In my opinion, this site is one of the most successful stealth facilities the Council has approved.

View of tower



View of base compound



Riprap at edge of grading



Access Road



Paved apron at access road entrance



AT&T Generator



View of tower from Leetes Island Road, from approximately 3500 feet to northwest



View of tower from railroad underpass, approximately 1000 feet to southeast



View of tower from Old Quarry Road, approximately 2100 feet to south southeast

